



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release UPON RECEIPT

SERVICE MAKING ALASKA SPORT FISHING SURVEY

Influx of new populations following emergency projects and notable recent increase in sport fishing in Alaska, have reflected in lowered abundance of native game fish species in certain waters of that Territory, it was today reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes by officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service. With little or no other form of recreation available to them, these new groups of people coming to the Territory have been turning wholesale to sport fishing, the reports explained.

In order to work out and apply such propagation and distribution practices as may be necessary to place those lakes and streams most affected on a management basis well in advance of any possibility of serious depletion, Milton C. James, assistant chief, Division of Fish Culture, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, has been detailed to the peninsula for three months.

He is being sent, according to Service officials, "for the purpose of outlining and undertaking whatever steps may be necessary for the maintenance of fishing for game species in the more accessible and popular lakes and streams of the Territory."

Mr. James will make lake and stream surveys to determine present species abundance, potential food and forage-fish supplies, and to undertake the transplanting of native species from inaccessible waters where they are abundant, into suitable waters, near population centers, which are now rapidly being fished out.

Since there are no roads to the remote lakes where the fish are now abundant, all transplanting will be done by seaplane, with the fish carried in special aerated tanks.

In the work to be undertaken, Mr. James will be aided in the actual transportation activities by a number of interested cooperating agencies. Among these are the Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association of Fairbanks, the Alaska Game Commission, Alaska Railway, Alaska representatives of the CCC, Forest Service, General Land Office, Park Service, and the Fire Control Service.

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